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Pityriasis rosea as a leading manifestation of COVID-19 infection

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To the Editor: Reported cutaneous manifestations incidence during COVID-19 infection varied between countries, a recent review showed a worldwide mean incidence of 1.7%.¹ These manifestations are polymorphic, and vary dependently on the disease severity.² Few pityriasis rosea (PR) and PR-like eruptions have been reported during COVID-19 infection.^{3,4}

Herein, we report a case of PR like eruption as a leading manifestation of COVID-19.

A 26-year-old woman with no previous medical history, presented to our dermatology clinic for 1 week history of erythematous scaly annular and oval papules over the trunk in a “Christmas tree” like pattern (Fig. 1a). The eruption was preceded with a herald annular plaque with a peripheral scaling collaret on her right thigh (Fig. 1b). The patient developed fever, cough and myalgia 48 hours later. She underwent a PCR test for COVID-19, which came back positive.

In this case, PR may be directly linked to COVID-19 infection, or to viral reactivation (e.g. HHV6, HHV7 and EBV) as previously reported⁵.

To our knowledge, reports on cutaneous manifestations that precede respiratory symptoms in COVID 19 are scarce. Dermatologists should be aware that cutaneous manifestations can be the presenting complaint of COVID-19 patients.

Figure. 1(a,b) (a) Erythematous and scaly papules over the trunk, (b) typical herald patch with the peripheral scaling collaret.

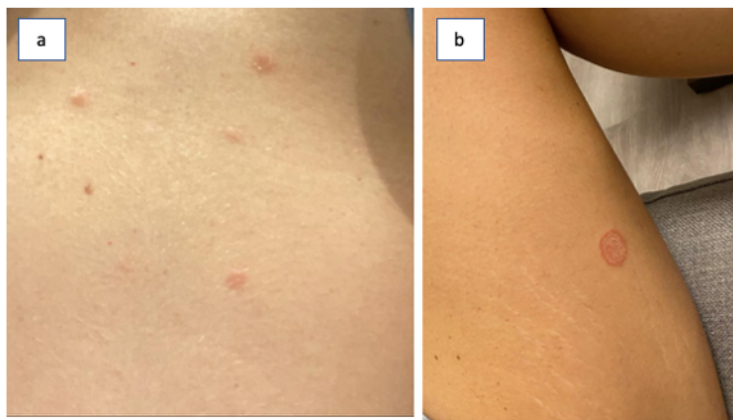
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